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WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Senate Approval No Tough Hurdle

By DREW PEARSON
WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Many Senators take their constitutional duty to scrutinize the confirmation qualities; of public servants rather lightly these days.

This is especially true of so-called 'career' appointees. If a man has served in government before, Senators give him a pointe once-over and speed him on to his new job on to his new lob.

Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine has been about the only member of the Senate Armed Services Committee to hold up a general's promotion, and Sen. William Fulbright of Arkansas and Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon are almost the only Senators who have made a fightagainst any ambassadorial ap-

Some recopie have asked me why, therefore, I have written about the background of John A McCone, now up for confirmation as chief of Central Intelligence. Their skepticism is justified. A majority of the Senate Armed Services Committee is almost certain to give McCone a polite pat on the shoulder and hass up any thorough investigapass up any thorough investiga-tion of his war profits, quickle airplane contracts, and conflict of interest.

Once before, when Harold Talbot was nominated to be Secretary of the Air Force I laid before Sen. Dick Russell of Georgia, the able chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee the scathing record which the late Chief Dustice Charles France Flushes and writ-Charles Evans Hughes had writ-ten on Talbot and war-profits conflict of interest. But the scholarly Georgian decided President Eisenhower had a right to 1 ick his Air Force Chief regardless of the past damning record. Later President Eisenhower was forced to fire Talbot for a new conflict of interest.

The Senate Armed Services Committee includes some very able men. Nevertheless, McCone will probably slip through the Armed Services Committee as easily as he slipped through the Joint Atomic Energy Committee which he was confirmed as atomic chairman.

Capital News Capsules

Fidel Castro complained bitterly to Soviet diplomats last
week that Moscow was deserting him in his greatest hour of
peril. Twice Castro talked with
the Soviet embassy Charge
d'Affaires, appealing for more
military and economic aid as
well as public promises of
Soviet nacking. But there are
signs that the Kremiin has decided that Castro is too wild
and timpredictable. And Castro
is reported becoming frantic
with worry.

Gen. Lucius Clay wants to quit as Kennedy's special rep-resentative in Berlin, because he resentative in Berlin, because ne feels hamstrung by the State Department. But the General won't quit, at least for the time being, because his departure would be interpreted in Germany as deserting a sinking ship, General Clay eased his difficulties with Sceretary Rusk displayed the first state of the state of th

Tommy Thompson wants to quit as Ambassador in Moscow too, but is also trapped by the Berlin crisis. After four years in Moscow, Thompson wants a new assignment. But now that



SEN SMITH

Stars don't come so easily.

he's started begotsations with
Foreign Minister Gromyko over.

Berlin, the liste Department
has told him to d better see it
through until the end.

President Kertildy has picked Matthew McClottey, the Democratic treasurer for the Interesting post of Embassador to Ireland.

McCloskey, withe home is in Philadelpnia and who is one of the big builders in the Eastern Scaboard, has been the of the most faithful money raisers in the Democratic Part for many Years.

The post of Anistrador to Ireland is considerated complacent one, with the least of problems. The test will no problems. The test will not a propose the least of the least of

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